East Asian Research Center

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November 21, 1974

Mr. Irv Drasnin
Producer
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Irv:

I thought you would be interested in a bit of local drama which involves your film, Misunderstanding China. I enclose the relevant Crimson clippings. The essence of the story is that when the Asian-American students opposed the showing of Charlie Chan movies which portrayed such stereotypes of Asian-Americans without any explanation about stereotypes involved, they worked with the Kirkland House Film Society to reach a compromise. The compromise was that after the showing of a Charlie Chan film, another film, Misunderstanding China, would also be shown to try to correct the stereotypes. The usual pattern is to charge $1 for the showing of films, but since your film can only be shown free for educational purpose, students are being charged $1 admission to see the Charlie Chan film and then your film will be shown free. Hence the enclosed notice.

I have not pursued the idea of trying to use extra unused film strip as I have no one in sight with the time and the money to make good use of it. In view of the good reception of your film Misunderstanding China, is there any chance that your film on Shanghai might be similarly available?

Sincerely,

Ezra F. Vogel

EFV/alsr

Asiatic Students Oppose Screening Of 'Chan' Movies

By JAMES M. ULMER

Members of the Harvard-Radcliffe Coalition of Asian-American Students met yesterday with the Kirkland House Film Society to oppose a scheduled showing this weekend of two Charlie Chan films, which they called "demeaning and personally offensive in their stereotypes of Asian Americans."

In a three-hour closed meeting, coalition members asked the film society to reschedule the movies to weekday showings in order to avoid presenting them as "simply entertainment to a boozed-up weekend crowd gathered together for an evening of laughs."

Jay J. Szalanski '75, chairman of the Kirkland film society, said yesterday that the society has tentatively agreed to reschedule one showing to a Sunday night, but added that the other film would still be shown on Saturday.

Norman M. Bock '76, a spokesman for the coalition, said yesterday the Saturday night showing "would not really be acceptable to our members because it is still a weekend night, especially when everyone is rowdy after the Brown football game."

He said he would present the society's

(continued on page 6)

...oncealed facts. "There is
...al reason whatsoever to support
...orium on further construction" of
...clear power plant, he said.
...ram also said that the documents the
used to conduct its investigation can
'interpreted in a number of ways."

'Chan'

(continued from page 1)

tentative proposal to the coalition's full membership at a meeting next Thursday night. At that time the group will officially vote whether to protest the showings.

"We just don't think the weekend audience would be very mature and sensitive to the derisive overtones of the film," Bock said. "We're only asking the society to show a little sensitivity towards our feelings by modifying their program."

KLAND

Charlie Chan at the Opera, Misunderstanding China, and **Charlie Chan at the Circus**, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 16 and 17, complete show at 8 p.m. **Misunderstanding China** will be free.

LEVERETT

The Wild One (1954), with Brando, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, 8 and 10 p.m.

WINTHROP

My Man Godfrey, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, 8 p.m.; **Ruggles of Red Gap**, 10 p.m.

SCIENCE CENTER

Fail Safe, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, 8 and 10 p.m.

HILLES

A Midsummer Night's Dream, with

6/14

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Ezra: December 30, 1974

Despite this unpardonable delay in responding, I received and read with some satisfaction the Crimson account of the "Charlie Chan" affair you so thoughtfully sent me.

Naturally, I was shocked (sic!) by the references in the story to a "boozed-up...rowdy" weekend gathering of Harvard students, but I assume that these were merely unfounded stereotypes perpetuated by the media!

The Shanghai film is indeed available through the Special Projects Library of CBS NEWS. If it is already booked for a specific date you want it, let me know and if my print is here you can use that.

Many thanks for your letter and the article. It's good to hear from you and I hope it's a good year for you and the Center. My best also to John Fairbank and Jim Thomson.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

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